

Household Effects

Export from France

(As Applicable to a Returning U.S. Citizen)

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to French legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to French government officials.

For U.S. customs regulations please refer to the website for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

<http://www.cbp.gov/>

The following documents are required in order to ship personal effects and furniture when moving from France. (Used household & personal items qualify as effects when they have been owned and used for 6 months or more and are intended for personal use in the new place of residence.)

Photocopy of the U.S. passport and visa and/or carte de séjour Detailed Itemized List of Articles (Inventaire-Détaillée):

This itemized list is a list of all personal effects and furniture, including automobiles, being exported. It must also include a sworn statement declaring that the articles listed on the inventory have been owned and used by the exporting party for more than 6 months. U.S. customs request that this inventory be as complete as possible, indicating the value in euros and dollars and a description of each article. (Your shipping company may furnish an example showing the format of this listing.)

Declaration for Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles (Form OMB NO. 1515-0053)

This document is required by the U.S. Department of Treasury and may be supplied by your shipping company.

A Change of Residence Certification (*Certificat de changement de domicile*):

This document may be obtained at the préfecture de police in your area, the city hall (*mairie*) or at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy during [notarial hours](#). Please schedule an online appointment with the Embassy for this service.

For someone who has been employed in France:

You should obtain a letter from your employer stating when you starting working there, that you are leaving France with a mention of the amount of time you have spent at the firm in France.

You must contact your shipping company concerning items that have been detaxed or will be detaxed prior to your departure. For this purpose you will need to submit the original receipts.

You may also need proof of payment of French taxes, if applicable. Please ask your shipping company for details.

Restrictions:

For the exportation of collector's items or items more than 100 years old there are long and detailed, sometimes expensive, formalities including an export permit (*permis d'exportation* which can be obtained from the Banque de France or the French Customs office. For all questions concerning exportation of works of art or other valuable items, please contact the following center:

Centre des renseignements statistiques

8 rue de la Tour des Dames

pièce 1110

75436 Paris Cedex 09

Tel: 0820 024 444

E-mail: crs@douane.finances.gouv.fr

Websites: <http://www.douane.gouv.fr/menu.asp?id=498> (in English)

<http://www.douane.gouv.fr> (in French)

- a. In order to export a quantity of alcoholic beverages a permit is required from the Tax office.
- b. A certificate of origin is needed to export Champagnes & Cognacs. (This document is provided by the wine merchant.)

ALL KEYS: should be labeled and attached to all trunks or pieces of furniture

Exporting Automobiles:

If exporting a car, it should be listed on the Inventory Declaration for U.S. Customs, stating the year of manufacture, the original cost, the make, the model, and whether it meets U.S. specifications. You will need the French registration (*carte grise*) and the official clearance certificate (*certificat de non gage*). Please contact your shipping company for further information.

Import into France

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to French legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to French government officials. See the following websites for further information:

The French Embassy website: <http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article781>

<http://www.douane.gouv.fr/menu.asp?id=498> (in English)

<http://www.douane.gouv.fr> (in French)

If you are in a position to prove, to the satisfaction of the Customs Office, that you have been living outside the European Union for at least 1 year prior to your moving to France and that you are going to settle down in France on a permanent basis, e.g. by producing a French Resident Card ("carte de séjour") or a letter from your French employer you must submit the following:

The documents listed below are required for the duty-free shipment of personal effects & furniture by a person moving to France. (Effects and furniture are considered to be personal effects when they have been owned and used for six months or more, (or one year for an automobile,) and are intended for personal use in the new place of residence.) French regulations require that the effects be shipped within a period of one year from the declared date on the stamped Change of Residence Certification.

A Change of Residence Certification (*Certificat de Changement de Domicile*):

This document may be obtained at the French Embassy or consulate nearest the place of departure. This certification states the date of the change of residence and MUST be stamped by a French consular official. You will need to support your application for the attestation with some documents like the ones mentioned above (i.e. a letter from the employer, etc..).

Detailed Itemized List of Articles (*Inventaire Détaillée*):

This is an itemized list of all personal effects and furniture, including automobiles, being imported. Each article is itemized in a comprehensive list, in duplicate, signed and dated, for goods you are importing into France as part of your move (in one or more shipments), with the identification of their value. The inventory should be as complete as possible, indicating the value in dollars and giving a description of all valuable properties, such as antiques, collector's items, and cars.

- a. for at least six months for all personal effects, and furniture,
- b. for vehicles please refer to the French consulate in your area or the following website:
<http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article782>

This Inventory should be in French and must be stamped at a French Embassy or French consulate in the United States.

For all questions concerning importation of works of art or other valuable items, please contact the:

Centre des renseignements statistiques

8 rue de la Tour des Dames

pièce 1110

75436 Paris Cedex 09

Tel: 0820 024 444

E-mail: crs@douane.finances.gouv.fr

Websites: <http://www.douane.gouv.fr/menu.asp?id=498> (in English)

<http://www.douane.gouv.fr> (in French)

Included as Duty-Free Household Effects:

You may import personal effects (wearing apparel, jewelry, toilet articles, hunting and fishing equipment and similar effects) as well as household effects (furniture, carpets, dishes, linen, libraries, pictures and similar household furnishings) free of duty and tax, provided you meet the conditions mentioned above.

Household Effects That Are Not Duty-Free:

Motors imported separately from the vehicle or appliance; speed boats; pleasure craft (except canoes and kayaks); school, store & office furniture; wine, alcoholic beverages; trucks and utility vehicles; and raw materials.

Restrictions on Duty-Free Household Effects:

A person who is importing a television should go to a *Radiodiffusion Television* office soon after arrival in France. All televisions used in France are subject to taxation (*redevance audiovisuelle*.) However, some American made televisions must be drastically adapted to work in France, (which uses a SECAM L system) and the cost of this procedure is often higher than the cost of a new television. There are customs restrictions on the importation of various guns, ammunitions, and certain printed matter. Check with the nearest French Consulate in the U.S. to obtain the specific restrictions on the importation of these objects.

Warning:

Household goods and personal effects imported free of duty and tax as part of your moving to France may not be sold or otherwise disposed of for a period of 1 year after they have been cleared through Customs, unless duties and taxes are paid at the applicable rate. Duties and taxes must be paid before the sale is completed.

Importing a Private Vehicle to France:

For information on Importing a Private Vehicle into France from Canada or the U.S., please see following websites:

<http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article782>

<http://www.douane.gouv.fr/menu.asp?id=498> (in English)

<http://www.douane.gouv.fr>

United States Embassy

American Citizen Services

4, avenue Gabriel

75382 Paris Cedex 08

France

Telephone: 01 43 12 22 22

Website: <http://france.usembassy.gov>

E-mail: citizeninfo@state.gov

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